[Translation]

Bodhghat Hydel Power Project in MP

2426. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present position in regard to bodhghat Hydel Power Project in Batar district of Madhya Pradesh and whether the Union Government are reconsidering over giving clearance to this project;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has already planted trees in the area which is equal to or in excess to the forest area likely to be submerged as a result of this project; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not launching the Bodhghat Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The construction activities on the project have ben stopped since 1986. The total forest land required for the project is 5904 Hectares. At the instance of the Ministry of Environment & Forest (MOEF) Government of India. Four study reports were commissioned to assess the possible loss of forest area due to construction of the project impact on flora/fauna and indentification of endangered species. The reports have been submitted to the MOEF. On the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee the MOEF has taken a decision not to allow the diversion of forest land for the construction of the project.

Afforestation work on 8419 Hectares of land had been completed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh by 1990. The plantation raised has been transferred to the Forest Department by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for maintenance.

[English]

Stoppage of Rajdhani Express

2427. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to have stoppage for Rajdhani Expres presently running between Delhi and Trivandrum at Kasaragod, Payyanur, Kannur railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Halting of Trains

2428. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any norms have been laid to station trains on various platforms at Delhi, New Delhi, Hazarat Nizamudding railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper arrangements are made to station passenger trains in equal number at various platforms on the aforesaid stations while preparing the berthing seats;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. When preparing berthing sheet, the Express & Passenger trains are distributed on platforms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations keeping in view the availability of platform, duration of halt of train, destination of train, operational factors etc. The actual berthing of platforms however gets changed some-times due to late running, detention outside station and other operational exigencies at the stations.

[English]

On-going Projects under Southern Railway

2429. SHRI. A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of work-in-progress viz., laying of New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doublling and Electrification under Southern Railway;

(b) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any other areas under Southern Railway have been identified for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.